

REMARKS

A. Request for Reconsideration

Applicant has carefully considered the matters raised by the Examiner in the outstanding Office Action but remains of the position that patentable subject matter is present. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the Examiner's position based on the above amendments and the following remarks.

B. Claim Status

Claims 1-7 are pending in this application.

Claims 8-10 have been added to this application.

Claim 1 has been amended herein to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the present invention. Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the radial bearing and the axial bearing are arranged axially one beside the other substantially in one plane. The best support for this amendment can be seen in figure 1 where radial bearing 9 and axial bearing 12 are clearly shown as being arranged axially one beside the other substantially in one plane rotating around bearing axis 15 and also found in Specification paragraph [0020].

Claim 8 has been added to recite that the diameter of the axially outward-projecting cylindrical portion of the sleeve is smaller than the diameter of the cylindrical sleeve. Support for claim 8 can be seen in figure 1 where the diameter of the axially outward-projecting cylindrical portion 4 of the sleeve 2 is smaller than the diameter of the cylindrical sleeve 2 and also found in the second sentence of Specification paragraph [0020].

Claim 9 has been added to recite that the diameter of the axially inward-pointing flange is larger than the inside diameter of the inner ring. Support for claim 9 can be seen in figure 1 where the diameter of the axially inward-pointing flange 6 is larger than the inside diameter of the inner ring 7 and also found in the third sentence of Specification paragraph [0020].

Claim 10 has been added to recite that the radial extent of the cylindrical rolling bodies of the axial bearing is smaller than the radial extent of the cylindrical rolling bodies of the radial bearing. Support for claim 10 can be seen in figure 1 where the radial extent of the cylindrical rolling bodies of the axial bearing 12 is smaller than the radial extent of the cylindrical rolling bodies of the radial bearing 9 and also found in the third sentence of Specification paragraph [0021].

No new matter has been added by way of these amendments.

D. The Present Invention

One of the unique aspects of the present invention is that the radial bearing and the axial bearing are in a side-by-side axial arrangement. This side-by-side axial arrangement allows for a compact configuration and allows for maximum load bearing capacity in the radial and axial direction while providing a favorable utilization of space in the radial direction. In other words, nominal radial space is used to arrive at the bearing of the present invention. Such arrangement is distinguishable from that taught in the cited references.

E. Prior Art Rejection

Claims 1 and 4-7 had been rejected as being anticipated by Muntnich while claim 2 and 3 had been rejected as being unpatentable over a combination of Muntnich and Bauer.

As noted above, claim 1 has been amended to recite the limitation that the radial bearing and the axial bearing are arranged axially one beside the other substantially in one plane. It is respectfully submitted that this rejection is now moot because of this amendment.

Since the dependent claims 2-7 are dependent on claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are patentable over the cited references taken alone or in combination.

F. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. Should any extensions of time or fees be necessary in order to maintain this Application in pending condition, appropriate requests are hereby made and authorization is given to debit Account # 02-2275.

Respectfully submitted,
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